GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:205
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF MANGROVE FORESTS DURING NINTH PLAN
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where mangrove forests are grown;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of destruction of mangrove forests during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to develop the mangrove forests in States, especially in Orissa during the Ninth Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in to Part (a), (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.205 on Development of Mangrove Forests during Ninth Plan to be answered on 4.12.2000

(a) Mangrove forests in India are grown in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry.

(b) & (c) State of Forest Report (1999) has recorded an overall increase of 44 sq. km. in the mangrove forest cover in the country during 1997-1999. However, marginal decrease in the mangrove forest during this period has been reported in Maharashtra. In the Ninth Plan protection, conservation and regeneration of mangroves has been identified as a thrust area. So far 30 areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation and management of mangroves. During the Ninth Plan Rs.747.65 lakhs have been released to the respective coastal States, including Orissa for implementation of Management Action Plans for conservation of mangroves. The Ministry constituted a Task Force in November, 1999 for assessment of damage caused in the coastal areas of Orissa due to super cyclonic storm of October, 1999. The Task Force observed that no significant damage was caused to mangrove vegetation by the cyclone. However, the Task Force identified an area of 3000 hectares having potential for mangrove afforestation in the State. An amount of Rs.46.50 lakhs was released to the State for implementation of Management Action Plans on Bhitarkanika and Mahanadi Mangroves during 1999-2000. During the current financial year an amount of Rs.55.75 lakhs has been released to the Government of Orissa for implementation of Management Action Plans on mangroves in Subernrekha, Dhamra and Devi estuaries of the State.